

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

-----032055Z 057109 /66

R 031610Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5676

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0013

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJECT: PREPARATION FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

REF: 76 ALGIERS 2959 (NOTAL)

1. PRESS HAS BROKEN TWO-WEEK SILENCE ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS WITH DEC 31 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT BOUMEDIENE HAD CHAIRED MEETING ON SUBJECT PREVIOUS DAY. ANNOUNCEMENT NOTES THAT PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, PARTY COMMISSARS, PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN AND MILITARY SECTOR CHIEFS ATTENDED GATHERING AND RAISED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS, BUT NO SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION ON WHAT WENT ON IS GIVEN. SUBSEQUENT ARTICLE SPEAKS OF PROVINCIAL-LEVEL MEETINGS SEEKING TO DEFINE METHOD FOR PROPOSING CANDIDATES.

2. ALGIERS FLN CELL CHAIRMAN CONFIRMS SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES THAT THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. LOCAL FLN BRANCHES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY WILL SIFT NAMES OF CANDIDATES AND EVENTUALLY PRODUCE TWO FOR EACH ASSEMBLY SEAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED PROCEDURE. DISCUSSION OF MERITS OF VARIOUS CANDIDATES WILL TAKE PLACE ENTIRELY WITHIN PARTY
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MEETINGS ALTHOUGH BIOGRAPHIES OF THOSE FINALLY SELECTED TO RUN WILL BE PUBLISHED TWO WEEKS BEFORE ELECTION DAY. SOURCE SAID THAT SOME REASONABLY SENIOR GOA OFFICIALS (HE MENTIONED UNNAMED SECRETARIES GENERAL IN CERTAIN MINISTRIES) WILL RUN, AND THERE MAY BE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CANDIDATES AS WELL. DEPUTIES MAY RECEIVE SOME COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES BUT WILL BE PERMITTED

TO HOLD OTHER JOBS.

3. COMMENT: SO FAR, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
HAVE AROUSED LITTLE DISCUSSION HERE. EVEN ADMINISTRATION
AND FLN SEEM TO BE HAVING DIFFICULTY IN GETTING DOWN
TO BUSINESS. IF ELECTORAL DEBATES ARE KEPT ENTIRELY WITHIN
CONFINES OF FLN, LEVEL OF INTEREST UNLIKELY TO APPROACH
THAT ACHIEVED DURING NATIONAL CHARTER DISCUSSIONS
LAST SUMMER.

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